

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14. (canceled)

15. (original) A method of conducting E-Commerce, comprising the steps of:

(A) connecting to an E-Commerce portal;

(B) linking from the E-Commerce portal to a vendor commerce system associated with the E-Commerce portal;

(C) browsing a local catalog of products stored at the vendor commerce system and selecting a particular product for purchase;

(D) transmitting a transaction packet from the vendor commerce system to a common transaction processing system via the Internet, and storing the transaction packet in a global shopping basket;

(E) returning to step (A) and repeating steps (B), (C) and (D) until no additional products are to be purchased;

(F) segmenting the transaction packet information stored in the global shopping basket and aggregating individual product order items by vendor;

(G) processing the individual product order items for each vendor at the transaction processing system by communicating transaction information between the transaction processing system and a plurality of back-end processing systems.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the processing step (G), further comprises the steps of:

(G)(1) querying a vendor database to obtain vendor-specific processing rules used by the transaction processing system to process the transaction order items for a particular vendor; and

(G)(2) querying a customer database to obtain customer-specific processing rules used by the transaction processing system to process the transaction order items for a particular customer.

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